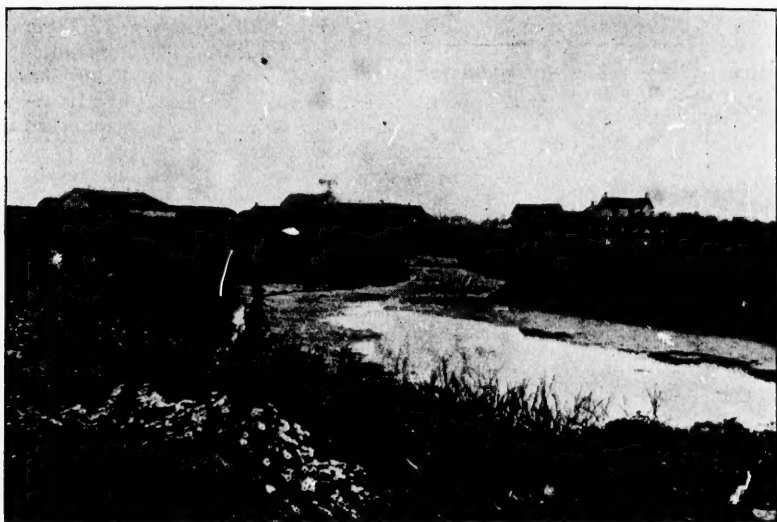




MARTIN'S FARM, NEAR MORRIS, MANITOBA.

OUR WESTERN HERITAGE.

BY GLO. H. HAM.

FEW Canadians realize the enormous extent, the varied resources and the illimitable possibilities of their North-West. That a lack of knowledge of, and interest in that region should be shown by foreigners is only natural and reasonable, but that Canadians themselves, who have been made heirs of half a continent, should lamentably fail in the fullest appreciation of its worth is not only a pity, but a shame. It shall be the aim of this article to point out the marvellous fertility and boundless resources of the Canadian North-West, and how all too imperfectly we are making use of it.

There is now being reaped—and before this will appear in print, there will be to a considerable extent threshed—in Manitoba and the Territories, perhaps the greatest harvest that has ever been grown by so few

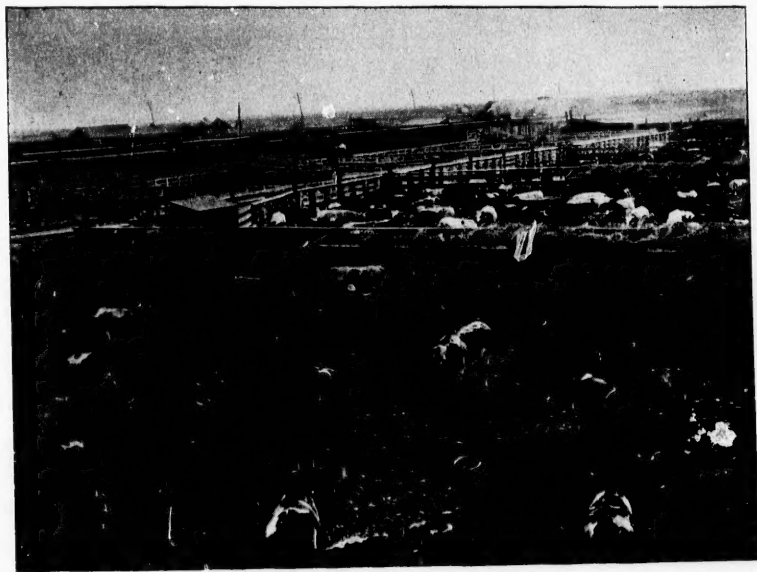
people in the world before. It is estimated that in Manitoba there are 25,000 farmers, many of whom commenced life in this western land without capital a comparatively few years ago, and some of them without that knowledge or experience of farming which is, especially under the conditions of the Province, a calling in which both skill and intelligence are required. And yet these 25,000 farmers have produced this year, according to the Government bulletin for August, 29,139,815 bushels of wheat, 21,887,416 bushels of oats, 5,507,310 bushels of barley, and of flax 1,240,020 bushels, making, with the rye and peas, a grand total of 57,861,621 bushels of grain. This is an average of something over 2,300 bushels for each farmer. And this great crop has been produced without

the expenditure of a dollar for artificial manures, and with a very small outlay for wages, as the Manitoba farmers generally have done their own seeding and breaking. The wages of an extra farm hand for about five thousand of the farmers during the two months of stacking and threshing about represents the wages outlay for this enormous crop. The greater number of the rest of the farmers did their own work with the aid of their families, and by "exchanging" with their neighbors.

In addition to the production of grain there has been a magnificent root crop—potatoes, turnips, cabbage, beets, onions, and garden vegetables of all kinds; and while the bulletin does not report the probable yield of

These figures show the product of Manitoba only, but, besides, there are five rich Territories, embryo provinces, all of which are included in the general term "The North-West."

The average yields of grain in Manitoba this year, according to this bulletin, will be of wheat 25.5 bushels; oats, 45.3 bushels; barley, 35.8 bushels; peas, 25 bushels; flax, 15 bushels; rye, 22 bushels. But the harvest reports from all parts of the province indicate a much higher yield of everything than does the bulletin, the compilers of which took the minimum reports, in every case, of their 600 correspondents, and allowed for a considerable shrinkage which later events go to show has not taken place. The average yield of wheat per acre over



CATTLE YARDS, WINNIPEG, 2,000 IN YARD AT A TIME.

these important products, it must amount to nearly 10,000,000 bushels, and this can be safely said that for the production of roots of every variety Manitoba is equally as well suited as it is for cereals.

a series of years in the principal wheat growing countries is about as follows: Great Britain, 25 bushels; France, 17; Germany, 22; United States, 14; Russia, 12; India, 8 to 12; Argentina, 8 to 9; Spain, 12; Austro-

Hungary, 11 to 12; Roumania, 18. In Great Britain, and practically in France and Germany, wheat is grown on land for which an annual rental is paid greater than the amount for which a purchase outright could be made in Manitoba, and then it has to be heavily fertilized to secure the production of the high yields not uncommon in those countries. Even then the quality is greatly inferior to the No. 1, Hard, of our western land.

But wheat, while still King, is not

and make as succulent joints and juicy steaks as the stall-fed beef of Ontario, Quebec and the East. There is a great future for this country as a beef producer if proper advantage be taken of the conditions.

Here, too, is almost an ideal place for dairying, as the rich grasses bring an enormous flow of milk in the summer while the abundance of hay and cheap coarse grain makes it possible to keep up the supply well through the winter. During the last two years Manitoba has sprung into prominence



A WHEAT FIELD AT ST. JEAN, MANITOBA.

the only source of western prosperity. The cattle shipments are looming up magnificently. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has orders for cars for the shipment of 10,000 head since the first week in July, the greater portion of which are for direct shipment to England, and this branch of industry is second only in importance to wheat growing itself. The grasses of the broad western prairies possess that nutrition required to bring animal life to its highest development, and these cattle are as fat and sleek

as an exporter of dairy products, and there appears to be no limit to its capacity in this important branch of agriculture. There are now nineteen creameries in operation with a daily output in the summer months of 8,300 pounds of butter; and besides these are all the private dairies. The indications are that this number will be doubled next year and the output of those already in operation considerably increased. The number of cheese factories operating this year is 43, and the daily product is about 22,000

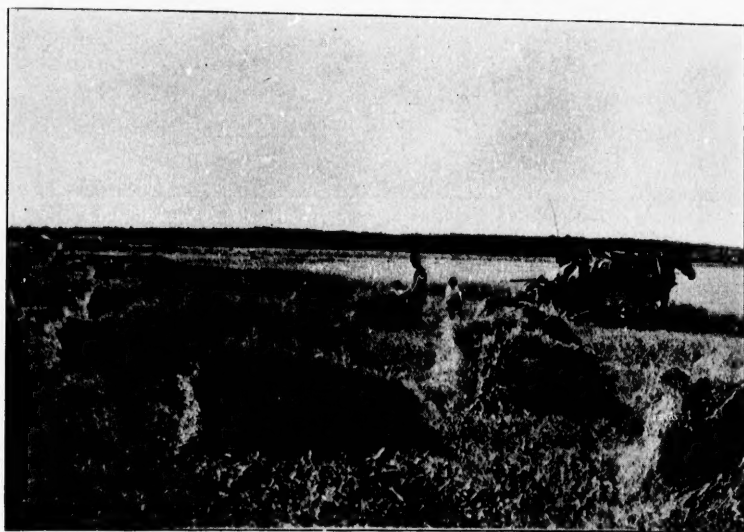
pounds, with the assured prospect of a large expansion another year.

A good deal of attention, too, is being devoted to hog raising, and in some parts of the province farmers have from fifty to one hundred hogs fattening for the fall markets. With such an abundance of oats and barley, hogs can be fattened very cheaply, and the only wonder is that the farmers have not sooner awakened to the benefits of this branch on an extensive scale.

small fruits, wild as well as cultivated, it is the housewife's paradise.

That the country has its drawbacks no one will deny. No new country is without them.

But it has fewer than, perhaps, many an older settled region. The coldness of the winters is more than compensated by their healthfulness, and in the bright, sunshiny days of summer when their rigors are forgotten, many a Manitoban will asseverate that with the Snow King comes the not least



REAPING OATS—SCENE NEAR WINNIPEG.

Sheep do remarkably well in any part of the country in which they have been kept in anything like a proper way.

There is no product in the north temperate zone, in fact, that will not grow or thrive in Manitoba, and in greater abundance and of a better quality than perhaps in any other part of the world. Tomatoes will not ripen in Great Britain, and yet the people of Manitoba have been eating this luscious fruit or vegetable—which ever it may be—from their own gardens since the 20th of August. In

delightful part of the year. But allowing for all its present and prospective drawbacks, it is unquestionably the finest region on earth which is not now thickly settled, and offers greater chances to the average man, to make with the minimum of labor a comfortable home for himself, than any other country is now doing.

One great advantage this land possesses over the North-western States of the Union as a settlement region, is that the pioneering has been done. The railroads are built, and every section of the country can boast of its



STACKING—SCENE NEAR MORDEN, MANITOBA.

schools, churches, post-offices, and the other adjuncts of civilization. The settlers in the Western States had to precede the iron horse, and often to

battle with the Indian for their lives, and it was in many cases years before there was any market at all for their surplus products. In view of the



FALL WHEAT—A FIELD 10 MILES FROM WINNIPEG.

wonderful progress of the States of Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas, it seems too much to claim that our western domain is their superior; but there is good reason for doing so. Consider the unprecedented growth of these States, and yet twenty years ago an American statesman on the floor of Congress questioned the ability of the whole State of Minnesota to produce enough in ten years to feed a grasshopper, and such was the prevalent ignorance regarding that State that his statement was not discredited by

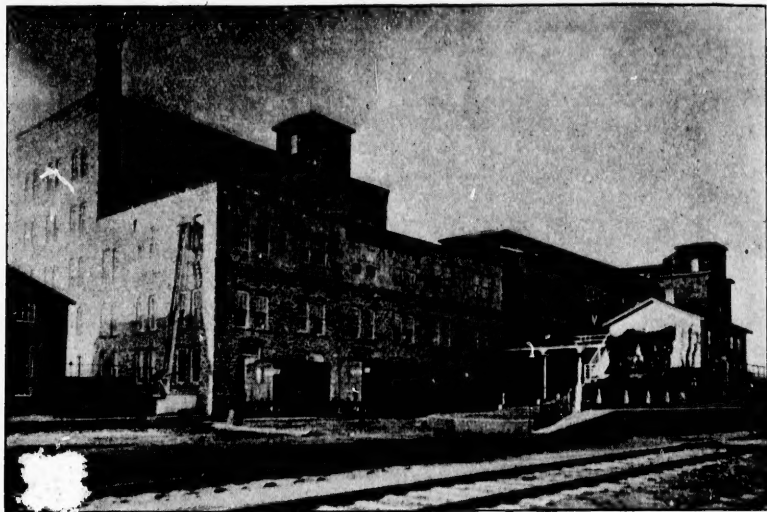
space of time not beyond the memory of living men, there has grown up on this very spot the most wonderful city of any age, with a population of over a million and a half, and being the local point and centre of 90,000 miles of railway, and the greatest distributing point for food products in the world. It is no unwarranted statement, but one made after careful study and travel, that in the Canadian North-West there is a country capable of maintaining just as dense a population, producing just as many



THRESHING WHEAT IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA, 28 BUSHELS PER ACRE.

many. To-day, Minnesota boasts of a population of nearly one-and-a-half millions, and its average wheat yield is larger than that of any other country except Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Seventy years ago, an officer of the United States army reported to Washington that Fort Dearborn should be abandoned, for the reason that the surrounding country was of such a character that it would be impossible for it ever to support a population large enough to justify its maintenance, and yet in the short

bushels of grain, and as much live stock as were raised last year in the large area tributary to Chicago, and from which she drew the trade necessary to make her one of the richest and most progressive cities in the world. Let any one travel over the ground and view the expanse of prairie and plain in the Canadian North-West, compare its soil with that of the Western States, and the practical immunity from the droughts, insect pests, and cyclones, from which unfortunately our cousins across the line



KEEWATIN MILLS.

are sufferers, and, more decisive than all, the supreme test of average yield of the principal crops in both countries over a series of years, and the fact is established beyond doubt that

in everything that goes to make a great agricultural country, the Canadian North-West is equal if not superior to the best of them.

Reference has already been incident-



HARVESTING NEAR MORDEN.

ally made to the climate of this magnificent region, and on this question the greatest misapprehension exists. The impression prevails amongst many that the winters are almost unendurable. But this is fallacious. Jack Frost, it is true, is no weakling in this north-land, but he is without terror to the warmly clad and comfortably housed; and owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, the low markings of the thermometer, which make Eastern readers shudder and shiver, are sadly misleading. A Western "thirty be-

quality is, and the same is true of men. The northern races have been the conquering races, and have given the world nearly all it has of everything that distinguishes civilization from barbarianism. There can be no doubt but that there will grow up in the fertile valleys of the Red, Assiniboine, and Saskatchewan valleys a superior civilization. The settlers will be of the northern races—Anglo-Saxon, German, and Scandinavian.

With a land incomparable in its richness and fertility, with free institutions,



A MAITNOBA HOMESTEAD.

low" is scarcely equal to a zero day in the more humid East. The summer days are warm, but the nights are cool and refreshing. How different it is with the intense heat of Argentina, Australasia, Africa, or even some of the Western States, which no artificial means will guard against, and where hot winds, laden with miasma and fever, carry off annually thousands of their people, and sap the constitution of the living. It is an established fact that the further north grain will grow, the better the

wise laws justly administered, with educational facilities from which no children are barred—here, too, will rise a Greater Britain—a worthy offspring of the grand old Motherland across the sea. The only lack is population, and the statesman who solves the problem of peopling these untenanted lands from the congested districts of the East will have done his country inestimable service. Let anyone consider for a moment what a tremendous impetus would be given the trade of Canada, if instead of there

being in Manitoba 25,000 farmers producing 60,000,000 bushels of grain, and a corresponding amount of other products, there were 200,000 farmers producing 480,000,000 bushels of grain, and \$100,000,000 worth of meat and dairy products. How many thousand more operatives would be required in the factories of the East! Then no cry would go up from Canadian cities that there was lack of employment for their working people, for the demands of this great wealth-producing army would keep busy every forge, spindle and loom. There are difficulties in the way of securing suitable immigrants, but because the problem is a hard one is no reason why it should be left unsolved. Confederation itself

was a difficult problem. The building of the Canadian Pacific Railway was not unattended with great discouragements and enormous sacrifices on the part of the Canadian people, and surely when Canadians have made these sacrifices to lay the foundation of a great nation, they will not falter and shrink in rearing the superstructure because it is attended with difficulties. Upon the peopling of the North-West, in a large measure, depends the prosperity of the whole Dominion, and upon our public men rests a grave responsibility in the inauguration of a policy which will early bring about that glorious result which every patriotic Canadian desires.

"HOW SHALL I WOO?"

A SONG.

How shall I woo my lady,
How shall I dare confess
The truth of the love I bear her,
The power of my heart's distress.
Would I might win her favor
With jewels of matchless make,
Or cover my head with glory,
Glory for her dear sake.

How shall I woo my lady,
How shall I gain her grace;
A smile from her lips I covet,
A beam from her sunlit face;
Would she but only bid me
Some daring deed to try,
I'd do it, if fortune favored,
Do it, or gladly die.

Eyes into mine are gaz'ng
Eyes of the softest hue,
Reflecting my heart's fond passion,
They challenge my courage too—
Fondly I clasp her to me,
And hear sweet words divine,
That whisper the love I'm yearning
Is mine, already mine.

Brantford, Ont.

—HASTINGS WEBLYN.